

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's helpful indication that claims 13, 15 and 18 are directed to allowable subject matter, applicants have amended claim 9 to incorporate the limitations of claim 13, which has been canceled, and have amended claims 15 and 18 to be in independent form. Applicants have also amended the new independent claims without narrowing their scope to avoid an antecedent basis problem the Examiner did not notice in the claims. The prior art rejection is now moot.

Early action allowing claims 9-11 and 14-21 in this application is solicited. Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 12 should be rejoined and allowed along with the other claims in this application.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **204552018610**.

Respectfully submitted,

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